

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES *

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		ACTUAL PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	JUNE 15 1948	JULY 15 1948	JUNE 15 1948	JULY 15 1948	JUNE 15 1948	JULY 15 1948
	- DOLLARS -		- DOLLARS -		- PERCENT -	
COTTON, LB.....	.352	.330	.311	.311	113	106
WHEAT, BU.....	2.11	2.03	2.22	2.22	95	91
CORN, BU.....	2.16	2.02	1.61	1.61	134	125
OATS, BU.....	1.07	.866	1.00	1.00	107	87
BARLEY, BU.....	1.68	1.42	1.55	1.55	108	92
RYE, BU.....	1.91	1.72	1.81	1.81	-	95
BEEF CATTLE, CWT..	24.80	25.80	13.60	13.60	182	190
HOGS, CWT.....	22.90	25.90	18.20	18.20	126	142
LAMBS, CWT.....	25.00	26.20	14.80	14.80	169	177
CHICKENS, LB.....	.305	.319	.286	.286	107	112
EGGS, DOZ.....	.434	.458	.475	.513	91	89
MILK, (WHSE), CWT..	4.67	4.80	3.58	3.74	130	128

* Parity means a price for the farmer's product which will give it exchange value for things the farmer needs to buy equal to that in a specified base period, usually (1909-14).

FARM CASH RECEIPTS DECLINE

Total cash receipts from the sale of farm products in North Carolina totaled 110 million dollars during the first four months of 1948, or 15 million dollars below the same period in 1947. This net decrease resulted from a decrease of 17 million in the sale of crops and an increase of 2 million in the sale of livestock and products.

As of June 11, farm cash receipts in the United States for the first 6 months of 1948 were expected to exceed the same period in 1947. It is estimated that total receipts for the first half of 1948 will equal 12.6 billion dollars. This includes 8.1 billion dollars from livestock and 4.5 billion dollars from crops. As compared with the first half of last year, crop receipts are expected to be up 5 percent, total livestock receipts slightly higher, and the two combined perhaps 3 percent higher.

TOBACCO SITUATION

THE USDA COUNTY COUNCIL

Each county throughout the United States is expected to have a county council organization representing the heads of each United States Department of Agriculture Agency. These represent the Agricultural Extension Service (County Agent); Production and Marketing Administration (AAA); Vocational Agriculture Education; Soil Conservationists; Rural Electrification; Farmers' Home Administration; Production Credit Association; and Forestry. They meet upon call or monthly, depending on location and current interest. The N. C. state USDA Council which meets each month represents all the different agriculture agencies located in Raleigh.

Farmers will produce about one-fourth less tobacco of all types this year than last if they harvest the acres intended on March 1, and yields are average. Domestic use of tobacco will continue high because cigarette consumption will be close to last year's record. Output of other tobacco products other than cigarettes is expected to show little change from last year. The European Recovery Program is likely to increase tobacco exports in the year ahead above current levels. U. S. exports of manufactured tobacco during the 1947-48 fiscal year are expected to be from 166 to 191 million pounds declared weight less than 1946-47.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N.C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	JUNE 15 1948	JULY 15 1948	JULY 15 1947	JULY 15 1946	JULY 15 1945
N. C. INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS....	275	265	267	242	186
COTTON & COTTONSEED..	290	271	286	254	176
GRAIN.....	220	211	209	209	156
MEAT ANIMALS.....	377	404	327	289	221
POULTRY.....	256	283	256	245	231
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	232	234	214	209	172
MISCELLANEOUS.....	242	236	235	217	210
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID**	110	106	116	122	108
U. S. INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED.....	295	301	276	244	206
PRICES PAID.....					
INTEREST & TAXES...	251	251	230	198	173
RATIO OF PRICES, RECEIVED TO PAID...	118	120	120	123	119

* Ratio of N. C. Prices received to U. S. paid. * Revised

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	N. CAROLINA		U. S.	
	JUNE 15 1948	JULY 15 1948	JUNE 15 1948	JULY 15 1948
- DOLLARS -				
BRAN.....	4.50	4.35	4.13	3.79
MIDDINGS.....	4.70	4.65	4.51	4.26
CORN MEAL.....	5.80	5.70	5.09	4.94
COTTONSEED MEAL....	4.60	4.65	5.03	5.08
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	4.30	4.30	4.44	4.35
18% PROTEIN.....	4.70	4.70	4.69	4.55
20% PROTEIN.....	4.85	4.80	4.80	4.64
LAYING MASH.....	5.80	5.70	5.40	5.34
SCRATCH FEED.....	5.50	5.40	5.26	5.08
TANKAGE.....	6.90	7.00	5.95	6.10

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	N. CAROLINA		U. S.
		JUNE 15	JULY 15	JULY 15
		1948	1948	1948
- D O L L A R S -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.97	1.99	2.02
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.43	2.24	2.03
OATS.....	BU.	1.10	1.03	.866
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.65	1.64	1.42
RYE.....	BU.	2.50	2.32	1.72
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	3.30	3.35	3.66
COWPEAS.....	BU.	5.80	6.00	5.29
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.11	.109	.104
COTTON.....	LB.	.357	.333	.330
COTTONSEED.....	TON	83.00	80.00	96.00
WOOL.....	LB.	.49	.49	.49
HOGS.....	CWT.	21.30	24.60	25.90
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	18.90	19.50	25.80
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	24.80	24.90	26.70
SHEEP.....	CWT.	9.30	9.50	10.20
LAMBS.....	CWT.	22.40	23.80	26.20
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.32	.31	.319
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.48	.503	.458
MILK: (WHSE.).....	CWT.	5.25*	5.35	4.80
RETAIL.....	LB.	.198	.198	.186
BUTTER.....	LB.	.58	.58	.673
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.60	.62	.844
HAY: ALL LOOSE.....	TON	31.00	31.10	18.20
ALL BALED.....	TON	33.50	33.70	22.80
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.65	1.55	1.66
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.35	2.45	2.62
APPLES, COMM'L.....	BU.	2.50	1.95	2.13
PEACHES.....	BU.	-	2.85	-
ESPEDEZA SEED.....	CWT.	15.20	14.20	13.10
KOREAN.....	CWT.	12.00	12.00	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	18.00	16.00	-
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	22.50	20.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	23.00	22.00	-

FARM CENSUS ENDS

The 1947 legislature changed the farm census from yearly to five year enumerations. County farm statistics will, hereafter, not be available for years later than 1947, and the U. S. Census for 1949 crops will be published about 1952. These will obviously be obsolete. For the first time in 30 years County figures will not be available for emergency or any needs by local leaders.

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

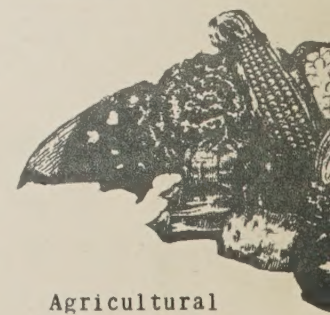
The mid-month Farm Report has not supplied enough space to present nearly enough of the important monthly report results. Thus, we are trying two issues. This permits of issuing the Prices results two weeks earlier than was available before.

Several reports developed from the 10th to the 25th of the month can be used in this issue, thus too, permitting more room for the general mid-month report issue. It all means better services to our volunteer reporters as well as to agricultural leaders.

Even after preparing this issue, several important reports must be omitted, along with too great condensation of some offered herewith.

Economic

Agricultural



JULY PRICE INDEX

The mid-July index of prices received for "All farm products" by North Carolina farmers was 265 percent of the 1909-14 average. The July index reflected a 10-point drop below the June index of 275 and was about the same as a year ago. Recent drops in the average price received for cotton by our farmers were primarily responsible for the decline in index for all products.

Among individual indexes, that for meat animals soared to an all-time high. At 404 percent, the July index was 25 points above the previous record high of 379, which occurred in January of this year. Increasingly higher prices received for all types of farm meat animals were helpful in pushing the index to a new peak.

The "poultry" index also reflected a noticeable increase over the index of a month earlier. The July index at 283 percent was 27 points higher than the June index and also above the index of a year ago. Higher prices received for eggs during the middle of July accounted for the increase in this index.

The grain price index dropped 9 points from the June measure of 220. This lower index for grains was brought about primarily by decreases in prices received for wheat, oats, barley and rye. However, the index for grains still remained above that of a year earlier.

Declining prices received for cotton and cottonseed influenced the index for these two commodities. This index was 19 points below that of 290 for June this year and 15 points below the July, 1947, index of 286.

Continued gains in prices received by U. S. farmers for meat animals, dairy, and poultry products more than offset declines in prices for grains, soybeans, and cotton to raise the mid-July national index of prices received by farmers to 301. This index is 2 percent over a month earlier.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT ON FARMS

During the past 14 years rapid progress has been made in making electricity available to North Carolina farmers. The table below gives a comparison of the percent of farms having specified electrical equipment in North Carolina and the United States. It will be noted from this table that the proportion of North Carolina farms, as of July 1, 1947, having specified electrical equipment is less than the U. S. average on every item.

ESTIMATED PERCENT OF NORTH CAROLINA FARMS HAVING SPECIFIED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AS OF JULY 1, 1947.

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	PERCENT OF FARMS HAVING EQUIPMENT	
	N.C.	U.S.
ELECTRICAL REFRIGERATOR...	27	38
ELECTRIC RANGE.....	4	12
ELECTRIC WASHING MACHINE...	23	43
ELECTRIC WATER SYSTEM.....	18	27
ELECTRIC WATER HEATER.....	5	10
ELECTRIC SEWING MACHINE...	2	7
ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER...	6	25

CHICK HATCHINGS INCREASE

Production of baby chicks by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina continued to run higher than last year with an output of 3,793,000 chicks during June. Although this was 23 percent higher than last year, the June hatch was 30 percent less than May. If the normal seasonal trend is followed, hatchings will continue down reaching their low point in September or October. The demand for broiler chicks remained strong during June. Some hatcherymen report that their operations are being limited by the scarcity of hatching eggs.

During the first 6 months of 1948 chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries equalled 27.2 million as compared with 26.4 million during the same period in 1947. The increase in chicks hatched in 1948 occurred from March through June, since January and February hatchings were below the same months in 1947.

FEWER FARM LABOR AT MORE COST

Total farm employment in the South Atlantic States, which includes North Carolina has decreased five percent from 2,279,000 on July 1, 1947. This change in total farm employment was due to a decrease of about seven percent in the number of family workers and an increase of about three percent in the number of hired workers.

Farm wage rates in North Carolina have continued to climb since 1946 and are now at the highest level on record. The table below shows a comparison of average rates paid on July 1 of this year and last year.

The farm labor situation is serious. Farmers are facing declines in prices they receive for their products against rising costs of purchases and labor. This is a matter of doing their own work with better machinery, and the least efficient hired labor.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM WAGE RATES
JULY 1, 1947 AND JULY 1, 1948

CATEGORY OF LABOR	1947	1948
1. PER MONTH WITH BOARD	\$55.00	\$59.00
2. PER MONTH WITHOUT BOARD	77.00	82.00
3. PER DAY WITH BOARD	3.40	3.75
4. PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD	4.00	4.30

POULTRY

CHICKENS RAISED ON FARMS 1948.

Preliminary estimates place the number of chickens raised on farms in North Carolina during 1948 at 18,894,000. This is 6 percent below the number raised last year and 13 percent fewer than average. There has been a steady decline in the number of chickens raised on farms in the State since the war time peak of 25,578,000 raised in 1944.

COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS.

The Chatham commercial broiler area reports now represent a year's trend for eggs set, chicks hatched, chicks placed and prices. Estimates of approximate weekly volume of broilers are available. Comparative trends are thus available for the first time, since a year's records are first required.

The Wilkes area reports were started July 1, and are now becoming fairly well reported. The usual confusion exists in some minds. Economic information is like education, it is slow in being established and in beneficial results. Yet all know that it is needful and enlightening. A few weeks more and Wilkes will see the light.

There are many small commercial egg and broiler producing areas in North Carolina, that are not included above. This industry is growing, and these reports should aid in stabilizing safe planning.

VOLUNTEER SPECIALTY REPORTERS

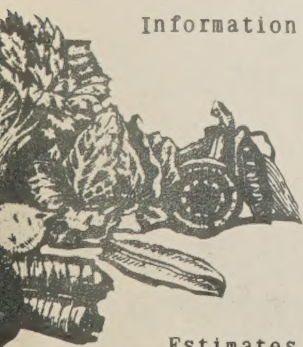
Of the 72 groups of specialty reporters, all represent just about all phases of farming. They were recommended to us as being dependable, cooperative, with good judgments, loyal and otherwise worthy of the privileges of the Crop Reporting Service.

All serve without salary or pay. Most receive benefits far beyond the time contributed. Long experiences result in increased benefits, or ability to judge

Specialty reports include: Prices Farmers Receive; Prices Farmers Pay (several groups); Poultry; Livestock; Truck Crops; Weather-Crops; Special Crops; Labor; Threshers; Millers; Storage; Agricultural leaders (several groups); Ginners; Warehousemen; County Officials; County Councils; and many others.

Information

Estimates



FARM REPORT

Published by the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
W. F. Callander, Assistant Chief

and the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
D. S. Coltrane, Commissioner of Agriculture

Issued monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Frank Parker
Agricultural Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS
INFORMATION DIRECT FROM FARMERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

Official Business

FORM BAE-7-48--7,500
PERMIT NO. 1001

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300
(PMGC)

ACQUISITION SECTION
LIBRARY,
U. S. DEPT. AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUGUST 1948

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

HYBRID CORN ACREAGE

North Carolina's hybrid corn seed movement started about 10 years ago when only 2,000 acres were seeded. This acreage increased rather slowly until 1946 when 121,000 acres, or 5.5 percent, were planted out of a total corn acreage of 2,193,000. In 1947 hybrid corn had increased to 14 percent of the 2,160,000 acres planted in all corn.

It is estimated that about one-fourth of the 2,333,000 acres planted in corn in 1948 was seeded with hybrids. While in 1938 only one acre out of a thousand was planted with hybrid seed, in 1948 there was planted one acre out of four.

North Carolina is still far behind some other sections, particularly the corn belt states, where almost 100 percent of the corn is grown from hybrid seed. This is due to the necessity of belatedly developing southern hybrid seed, which are now being produced.

For the Nation as a whole, 65 million or 75 percent of the total 1948 corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed. The Nation's percent of hybrids this year compares with 14.9 percent in 1938, 52.4 percent in 1943 and 72 percent in 1947. In 1933 only 0.1 percent, or 143,000 acres, of the U. S. Crop were in hybrids. As pointed out above, this is the same percent which was seeded in North Carolina in 1938.

OPENING DATES FOR TOBACCO MARKETS

TYPE	1948 SEASON BELT	OPENING DATE
14	GEORGIA-FLORIDA	JULY 22
13	S. C. - N. C. BORDER	AUGUST 3
12	EASTERN N. C.	AUGUST 19
11B	MIDDLE BELT	SEPTEMBER 2
11A	OLD BELT	SEPTEMBER 13
31	BURLEY BELT	NO DATE SET

GRAIN STOCKS: Stocks of corn in all positions in North Carolina on July 1 totaled 16,831,000 bushels - 16 percent larger than on the same date last year. Of this total 98% were on farms and two percent were in storage off farms. Off farm stocks were 40 percent above a year ago.

Carry-over stocks of 1947 wheat as of July 1 this year, were more than double those last year. Wheat stocks in all storage July 1 totaled 897,000 bushels, of this amount 80 percent was still on farms with 20 percent storage off farms. A year ago carry-over stocks of wheat totaled 424,000 bushels - 82 percent on farms and 18% stored off farms.

Stocks of old oats in North Carolina as of July 1 totaled 1,420,000 bushels nearly one-third larger than the carry-over on July 1, 1947. All but 25,000 bushels of this total was still on farms. Carry-over stocks last July 1 totaled 1,083,000 bushels with all except 53,000 bushels still on farms on this date.

HONEY: North Carolina beekeepers had 187,000 colonies of bees July 1 and 8 percent more than a year ago. New spring colonies totaled 28,000 - 15 percent of all colonies on hand July 1, compared with 19 percent last year. Winter loss of colonies was 12 percent, 7 percent less than losses during the winter and spring of 1946-47. The condition of bees on July 1 was reported as 85 percent - 1 percent lower than a year earlier. The condition of nectar plants was reported as 76 percent of normal, 3 points below a year ago.

The nation as a whole had a total of 5,718,000 colonies of bees on hand the first of July - 3 percent decline during the year. This was the first year of decline following a period of 4 successive years of increase. The decrease was due mostly to heavy winter loss of colonies and the low honey price. New spring colonies showed 20 percent of the number of colonies on hand July 1.

